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U.S. HAILS KOHL ELECTION VICTORY

The Reagan administration, with a sigh of relief, Monday hailed the "magnificent victory" at the polls of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a key backer of its arms policies.

President Reagan told a group of conservative supporters the election Sunday was an affirmation of "peace through strength," according to Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., who was among those who met with the president.

Vice President George Bush told a cheering conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that Kohl won a "magnificent victory." He indicated it would bolster the U.S. position at arms talks in Geneva.

CIA Director William Casey told reporters after addressing a business group that the election of Kohl's conservative coalition was "very encouraging." He said it offers "a much better climate to deal with" than the Social Democrats, who had accused Kohl of seeking a mandate to place U.S. medium-range missiles in West Germany.

The State Department said the United States looks forward to continued close relations with Kohl's government.

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